



Post-Crescent Photo

Sitting Before His Ham Radio outfit in Waupaca is Paul Niles, who recently won a coveted award for working all 40 radio zones in the world. Niles has about 1,800 other foreign contact confirmation cards and about 4,000 U. S. cards.

Waupaca Ham Honored for Contacts Around the World

Waupaca — Two top amateur radio operators awards have been awarded to avid ham operator, Paul Niles, Center street.

The coveted awards include the WAZ certificate and the number 200 sticker for the DX Century club.

The WAZ initials stand for working all zones. On the radio operators' map the entire world is divided into 40 zones. These zones cover every country from one pole to the other.

The 200th sticker is awarded to any amateur operator who confirmed contact with 200 foreign stations. Niles received the DX Century award in 1951 when he had contacted 100 foreign stations. DX are letters used by hams in attempting contact with foreign operators.

Contacted Laos

The Waupaca ham received the WAZ award soon after confirmation of a contact with Laos made in 1955. He had reached the 200 stations at that time, but did not receive confirmation until this summer.

Niles' certificate makes him the 762nd amateur radio operator in the world to win the coveted award. There are about 175,000 American operators and another 30,000 foreign hams spending their free time in front of the code key.

Upstairs Room

Back in 1932 Paul began his radio hobby with \$15 worth of equipment which has since grown into a \$1,000 investment. His home is marked by several towers topped with large antennas from which he

radiated messages all over the world.

His headquarters is a small upstairs room housing his Collins 75A-4 receiver and Viking transmitter. He also has a rotary antenna control similar to the ones used for turning television antenna.

In the drawers of his desk are some 1,800 foreign QSL

cards and another 4,000 United States cards. QSL cards are post cards which ham operators send each other after contact by radio. They are confirmation reports. Information included is the day of contact, signal strength, equipment used and weather conditions.

The farthest he has talked over his powerful equipment is Taiwan and Australia.

On occasions the hams serve as vital message runners. They often are able to contact servicemen in emergencies and sometimes do contact work in hard to reach places. Niles at one time contacted a Ripon man's wife who was in Alaska. The Ripon resident wanted to know when his wife was coming home.

On another occasion, a Greenland man inquired through Paul about the condition of his mother who was in an Oshkosh hospital.